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A List of Plants collected by Mr. J. Albert Rudkin on a trip to Mt. St. Elias, in the Summer of 1883. By N. L. Britton. (C.)

In Bull. Torr. Bot. Club, Vol. xi., p. 36, 1884.

Catalogue of Plants collected in July, 1883 during an Excursion along the Pacific Coast in Southeastern Alaska. By Thomas Meehan. (C.)

In Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila., pp. 76-96, 1884.

List of Plants collected by Charles L. McKay at Nushagak, Alaska, in 1881, for the United States National Museum. By Frank H. Knowlton. (B.)

In Proceedings of United States National Museum, 1885, pp. 213-221.

W. R. G.
N. L. B.

Broome County (N. Y.) Finds.—As far as I can determine, this county has never been thoroughly worked. Dr. Torrey, in his Flora of the State of New York, says: "The parts of the State that have been least explored botanically are the counties which lie on the borders of Pennsylvania, etc." In view of this fact, I have this year commenced a systematic exploration, so far finding two of the species that the doctor thought would be found in the State in this district, viz.: *Negundo aceroides*, Mœnch., and *Rudbeckia fulgida*, Ait. I append a few notes on my work this season, which, though incomplete, will give some idea of the probabilities of this locality. The following species, which I have met in counties west and north of this, I have not yet found here:

Claytonia Virginica, L., *Pinguicula vulgaris*, L., *Vesicaria Shortii*, T. & G., *Salix purpurea*, L., *Polygala Senega*, L., *Baptisia tinctoria*, R. Br., *Dicentra Canadensis*, DC., *Coptis trifolia*, Salisb., *Hydrastis Canadensis*, L., *Geum rivale*, L., *Sanguinaria Canadensis*, L. (strange as it may seem), *Rhus aromatica*, Ait., *Gymnocladus Canadensis*, Lam., *Asclepias tuberosa*, L., *Campanula rotundifolia*, L., and *Arisæma Dracontium*, Schott.

These I mention as plants that really ought to be found—except, mayhap, the second to fourth—and may hereafter be located.

Datura Stramonium, L.—Many individuals were found near a negro settlement on State St., city.

Datura Tatula, L.—One individual only, that near a comb factory, where the horns are kept, probably imported with them.

Melilotus officinalis, Willd.—Plentiful, but in one situation only, the *M. alba*.

Lychnis vespertina, Sibth.—In two situations.

Cassia Marilandica, L.—One individual only, that on Noyes Island, near the city, in the Chenango River.

Cypripedium acaule, Ait.—One individual only, and that a beautiful specimen, was found growing upon the upper side of a prostrate mossy trunk of *Abies Canadensis*, a strange situation for the largest and most perfect specimen I ever saw.

Betula papyracea, Ait.—Five clumps were found on the north aspect of South Mountain.

Chamaelirium luteum, Gray., is plentiful and very characteristic, both male and female, in a deep wood a mile north of Port Crane.

Monotropa Hypopitys, L.—Ross Park (a natural reservation.)

Negundo aceroides, Mœnch.—At Hawleyton, near the Pennsylvania State line. A beautiful specimen has also been transplanted in the Court House square, this city.

Rudbeckia fulgida, Ait.—In an old field west of the city cemetery.

Menyanthes trifoliata, L.—Cranberry swamps near Gulf Summit.

Epilobium palustre, L., var. *lineare*, Gray.—Same locality.

Viola Selkirkii, Ph.—Dickson's ravine, Port Dickinson.

Tussilago Farfara, L.—Though this plant is common in most parts of the State, I have met but one individual here; that in Ross Park.

Gillenia trifoliata, Mœnch.—Not uncommon.

Humulus Lupulus, L.—I have met the plant along the Susquehanna River, but can hardly call it indigenous in its localities.

Lysimachia nummularia, L.—This beautiful plant has escaped in great profusion to the grassy banks of Trout Brook, near the city. I have not, however, seen it in cultivation here.

Verbascum Blattaria, L.—One individual only, found in the cemetery.

Cardamine pratensis, L.—Plentiful on the borders of Pond Lake.

Berberis vulgaris, L.—One bush grows, I judge spontaneously, about a mile and a half from the city, in an open wood along Trout Brook.

Cichorium Intybus, L.—Escaped to some of the city streets.

Galeopsis Tetrahit, L., flourishes in Dry Brook near the city.

Asclepias quadrifolia, Jacq.—Common on the southern slopes of Prospect Hill.

Polygala paucifolia, Willd.—The pure white variety was very common at Pond Lake.

Impatiens fulva, Nutt., and *pallida*, Nutt.—Spotless forms were met on Noyes Island.

Aralia quinquefolia, Gray., though being rapidly dug up by "root-gatherers," is still quite plentiful in the woods near the Pennsylvania line.

Chelidonium majus, L.—Escaped plentifully about the city.

Euphorbia Cyparissias, L.—Escaped.

Trifolium reflexum, L.—Found on the summit of South Mountain.

T. agrarium, L., is quite common.

Aquilegia vulgaris, L.—The form with greenish white flowers has largely escaped in quite out-of-the-way places.

Rubus Dalibarda, L., though mentioned as rarely met with in the adjoining counties west, is quite plentiful at South Mountain wood.

Hypericum pyramidatum, Ait.—Plentiful.

Goodyera pubescens, R. Br.—So common in many places that a peck could be gathered without moving one's feet; a rarely beautiful sight, especially in the wooded slopes of South Mountain.

Habenaria pycnodes, Gray.—A pure white variety was found. This plant was depauperate in every part except its magnificent spike.

Trillium erectum, L., var. *album*, Ph., was plentiful at South

Mountain last year; not an individual was gathered this season, though many searches were made.

Binghamton, N. Y.

CHAS. F. MILLSPAUGH.

Pine-needles.—We read with interest, in the BULLETIN for August, just issued, that Mr. Meehan now is in accord with the botanical world in general in the belief that pine-needles "are true leaves, and not modifications of branches," as he has formerly taught. And really the reasons for his former opinion seem to be fairly overborne by the assigned reason for his conversion, namely, that in certain three-leaved fascicles of a pine, "each is a trifle shorter than the other."

Perhaps his suggestion that "all pines are monophyllous in the early stages of growth" because the needles of a bundle sometimes stick together for a while, but separate by "a light tap" on the apex, may be equally overborne by the consideration that this is incompatible with his statement "that a fascicle of pine-leaves is a depressed spiral," and by the fact that the adjacent needles of the bundle of white pine-leaves in question merely stuck together, but were never united.

A. GRAY.

The "Mocker-Nut."—The word *mock*er, in the name "mockernut," affords an example of an accommodated spelling due to a popular, though very erroneous, etymology. Michaux (Hist. des Arbres forestiers de l'Amer. Sept., i., 178-9) says of the fruit of *Carya tomentosa*:

"The shell, which is very thick, slightly striate, and of extreme hardness, contains a kernel which is sweet, but small, and difficult to extract on account of the very strong dissepiments that divide it; and it is probably for this reason that this species has been called the mocker-nut hickory." By this he would have us to understand that the nut was so called because it *mocks at* one's efforts to extract its kernel.

This explanation, notwithstanding its absurdity, has been copied into various books, and is, I think, the only one that has ever been offered; at least I have never met with any other.

It seems useless to mention the fact that to speak of a mocker nut in the sense assigned to the prefix by Michaux would be as un-English as it would be to speak of a cryer baby, a barker dog or a flower stream.

The *c* in the word *mock*er is epenthetic, and the name mocker-nut stands for (New York) Dutch *moker-noot*, 'heavy-hammer nut,' *i. e.*, one which, owing to the thickness of its shell, it takes more than a light hammer to crack.

The old and correct spelling, moker-nut, should be restored in botanical works, and the other, which is entirely meaningless, should be left to the trade-language of the nut-market, where perhaps it originated.

W. R. G.